



Date: September 10, 2004
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Carl Kemp, Manager of Public/Governmental Affairs
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: City Report: Weekly Update For Week Ending September 10, 2004

The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending September 10, 2004 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Fiscal Year 2005 Budget Adoption, City Manager

At a public hearing on September 7, the City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2005 Budget (FY 05 Budget), which will go into effect on October 1, 2004. The FY 05 Budget totals \$1.8 billion and represents a spending plan for all City functions, including the harbor, water and gas utilities, tidelands operations, and general City services. Included in the total citywide budget is the \$375 million General Fund.

The FY 05 Budget represents the second year of the City's Three-Year Financial Strategic Plan (Plan). The Plan was developed with input from the City Council, employees and members of the community as a way to address the City's projected, three-year, \$102 million structural deficit in the General Fund in Fiscal Years 2004-2006. The FY 05 Budget reduces the structural deficit by an additional \$33 million, bringing total reductions in FY 04 and FY 05 to \$74 million. This will leave \$28 million to be solved in FY 06.

The FY 05 Budget continues to focus the organization on essential optimization and efficiency efforts, operational and staffing cost reductions, increased fees to ensure cost recovery for City services, and a reduced reliance on one-time resources. It also reflects strategic investment in core services including the addition of ten new police officers, enhanced disaster management and preparedness support, continued sidewalk and alley improvements, youth programming, and graffiti and litter abatement efforts, in addition to establishing a reserve account for future infrastructure investments.

The public is invited to learn more about the FY 05 Budget. For more information on the budget, please refer to the City's website at www.longbeach.gov or call (562) 570-6425.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

West Nile Virus Update: Health and Human Services

Long Beach has documented two new human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) in the past week, bringing the cumulative city total this year to seven cases, one death and the other individuals recovering at home.

In order to continue to combat this mosquito-borne virus, DHHS's Vector Control Program added 15 new sites for spraying. Over 50 new complaints of locations of standing water have been investigated, and as required, have been treated to prevent mosquito growth. If warranted, these sites will be treated in accordance with the above noted schedule through the duration of the mosquito season. Over 300 miles of residential gutters sprayed in the city every seven to ten days.

DHHS' Public Health Laboratory conducted eight new WNV confirmatory tests this last week. To date, DHHS' laboratory has conducted over 235 WNV tests.

On September 7, staff made a presentation to City Council on measures to control mosquito populations and provided interviews to local television media, including CBS. Additionally, this week staff presented West Nile Virus educational information to residents at the North Pointe Apartments and the Sea Mist Senior Living Complex. To date, 15 community presentations and 8 health care provider presentations have been delivered.

Over 400 additional homes have had WNV educational information personally delivered by Environmental Health Bureau staff, resulting in over 900 homes receiving this information since July 2004.

DHHS' staff attended the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC) meeting on September 9 to discuss West Nile Virus with other regional public health jurisdictions. CHEAC works with local jurisdictions to identify current local public health issues, and to recommend, to appropriate levels of local and state government, the policy positions or actions to address those issues.

Human Resources Department

On September 7, the City Council approved the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2005. Included in the new budget is the elimination of approximately 200 positions in accordance with the Three-year Financial Strategic Plan and other program cuts. Over 80 percent of these positions are either vacant or vacancies exist within the City in the same classification. The remaining personnel will be transitioned to new positions in the City through the Civil Service process. Human Resources staff will immediately begin working with departments and impacted employees to facilitate transition efforts.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Police

At the September 7 City Council meeting, three police officers, Bret Milovich, Ciaran Crawford and William Johnston were presented with state resolutions of bravery by Assemblymembers Jenny Oropeza and Alan Lowenthal and Senator Betty Karnette.

Public Works Department – Airport Bureau

Recently the Long Beach Airport along with the Long Beach Fire Department, Aircraft Ground Equipment and Jet Blue Airways hosted "Family Day at the Long Beach Airport." The event was open to all Long Beach Airport tenants and their families for the purposes of having a fun-filled day together. This was also a great opportunity for tenants to meet and get together. About 500 people enjoyed free food and drinks, door prizes, games and a jumper for the kids, and helicopter rides at a minimal fee. In addition, Ray Rhodes, special guest from KBIG provided the entertainment.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Fire Department

Fire Engineer Gary Biggerstaff has once again set up his September 11 Memorial to honor fallen FDNY brothers. The Memorial, at 257 Bennett Avenue, Long Beach, features 343 personalized white crosses representing each fireman lost on 9-11. The display, on view from **September 9–12**, is lit all night. On the **September 11**, 6:45 p.m., there will be a brief ceremony and a traditional Five Bell Salute. The half hour ceremony will conclude with the singing of "America the Beautiful" and "Amazing Grace." Last year, this event was attended by over 400 people and was covered by the local news.

Public Works, Long Beach Airport

Long Beach Airport's main runway (12/30), undergoing a yearlong rehabilitation, will close for the final two weekends on **September 10-12** and **September 17-19**. These closures are necessary because the paving phase of the project must be performed during consecutive daylight and evening hours. Each closure begins on Friday at 11:00 p.m. and extends until Sunday at 7:00 a.m. On these dates, the City's contractor will be constructing final asphalt surface pavement. To accomplish this, large quantities of asphalt coming from a local asphalt plant will be required to be trucked in. A noticeable increase in truck traffic will occur along Cherry Avenue, north of the 405 Freeway, and Wardlow Road, east of Cherry. The overall rehabilitation project is on schedule and should be completed in December 2004.

On **September 16**, at 6:00 p.m., Airport staff will present reduced airport improvement project size alternatives to the Airport Advisory Commission. The Commission asked staff and consultant, HNTB, to provide two smaller alternatives to the proposed project at the July meeting. The meeting will be held at Long Beach Energy, 2400 E. Spring Street, and the public is invited to attend. Please contact Sharon Diggs-Jackson at 570-2636 for additional information.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS (continued)

Harbor Department

The Long Beach Museum of Art is presenting *Port Visions Long Beach: Photographs by Tom Paiva*, **September 10 through October 10**, featuring 13 large-scale, brilliantly colored and poetically evocative photographs documenting the beauty in the industrial landscape of the Port of Long Beach. This exhibition was made possible with the support of the Port of Long Beach, Hanjin Shipping Co., Sully-Miller, SSA Marine and other generous sponsors. For information, call 439.2119 or visit www.lbma.org.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

The grand opening of the Skate and BMX Facility at Houghton Park will be held on **September 11** at 11:00 a.m. and the public is invited

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

Homeland Cultural Center will begin a new series of Poetry Readings produced by poet/writer/instructor Linda Terrell. The first reading will be held on **September 11**, at 8:00 p.m., featuring Leimert Park's, "Alice the Poet." The evening will begin with readings by Homeland Poets, followed by Alice, and ending with open-microphone readings.

West Nile Virus: Health and Human Services

Staff will present West Nile Virus information to health care providers at Pacific Hospital of Long Beach. Additional presentations to community groups will be given at the Main Library on **September 13**, Disabled Resource Center on **September 14**, Lincoln Elementary and St. Mary's Neighborhood Improvement Center on **September 16**, and St. Luke's Church on **September 22**.

Fire

The Long Beach Search & Rescue Unit will proudly celebrate its 42nd anniversary on Saturday, **September 18**, at 11:00 am. The celebration will include displays of personnel and equipment, special presentations, a rescue demonstration, and tours of the facilities. The Search & Rescue Unit, which is sponsored by both the Long Beach Police Motor Patrol Association and the Long Beach Firefighters Associations, is a Specialist Explorer Post of the Long Beach Area Council of Boy Scouts of America. Specializing in urban heavy rescue, the group prepares and encourages its young members for possible careers in fire and emergency medical services and law enforcement. The celebration and open house will be at 2247 Argonne Avenue adjacent to the Fire Training Center and Fire Station 17 in Council District 4.

Library Services

The Carpenter Performing Arts Center and the Library will jointly sponsor the third annual "Read the Book and Write a Story Contest" during **September**. This year's book is the *Gruffalo*, by Julia Donaldson, featuring a clever mouse that outwits other creatures. Elementary school age children will read the story, write their own responses, and submit their stories to their local library. Librarians and community leaders will judge the entries at the end of the month. All authors will

receive prizes and recognition; grand prize-winning authors will be invited to attend a musical production at the Carpenter Center based on the book.

PUBLIC SAFETY

City Manager

On September 2, representatives from the City Manager's office and the Police, Fire, Public Works, Health, Water and Harbor Departments, discussed Homeland Security issues with Errol Southers, Deputy Director of the State of California Office of Homeland Security. Mr. Southers was also accompanied on a helicopter tour of critical city facilities.

Fire

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,177 emergency calls for service: 131 calls for fires, of which 28 involved structures. It also responded to 804 emergency medical calls: 548 required paramedics.

Police

After months of investigation, graffiti-related search warrants were served at multiple locations throughout the city resulting in the arrest of five subjects. This investigation and arrests should have a significant impact graffiti-related vandalism.

Public Works, Long Beach Airport

On September 1, the Long Beach Police Department's S.W.A.T. Team conducted training at the Long Beach Airport air carrier ramp. The team utilized one of JetBlue's A320 aircraft during the training exercises.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

The Central Neighborhood Advisory Committee (CNAC) celebrated the Labor Day weekend by hosting their last of five neighborhood clean-ups on September 4. With the participation of area residents, the Neighborhood Services Bureau, the 6th and 1st District Council offices, West Division Community Policing and the Substance Abuse Foundation, over 135 tons of trash were collected filling 15 dumpsters in five months. This series of Neighborhood Clean-Up covered the streets and alleys in the Central area from Long Beach Blvd. to Myrtle Avenue, Willow Street to Pacific Coast Hwy. Over the past five years, CNAC has coordinated several neighborhood beautification projects including: tree plantings, health and safety fairs, mural projects and cultural celebrations.

Public Works, Long Beach Airport

On August 25, the Long Beach Airport hosted a group tour for approximately 20 people from the Mark Twain Elementary Child Development Center. Since January 1, a total of 27 tours were conducted for 823 people from various groups.

NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

The Skylinks Golf Course renovation project continues on schedule. The contractors are renovating the parking lot. The Skylinks Golf Course Clubhouse has been scheduled with Edison to insure that the Pro Shop will be open for business by the October 1st opening. A media event was held today, featuring a tour by Cal Olson, the course architect.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

Construction at the Officer Daryle W. Black Memorial Park is now 80 percent complete with the installation of park benches, trash receptacles, playground sand and a piñata pole.

At Silverado Park, the accessibility improvements to playgrounds, walkways, and restrooms have been completed.

At Burton W. Chace Park, the concrete was poured for the water play feature. It is anticipated that a public opening will be held in October.

Library Services

North Neighborhood Library staff participated in the Back-To-School-Jam at the Carmelitos Housing Development on August 20. More than 360 youth and parents received valuable resources and information regarding after school programs, recreation, arts, youth employment, tutoring, mentoring, health, and literacy. The annual event highlighted a countywide goal of "Building Better Lives and Better Neighborhoods."

Over 75 people attended the Starbucks Children's Art Celebration Workshop, "Get Inspired!" at North Library on September 4. Workshops have been held throughout the summer at the following libraries: Bret Harte, Burnett, Brewitt and Bay Shore with two more scheduled in September at Los Altos and Bret Harte. Children can submit their artwork to the Long Beach Museum of Art, which will hold a free exhibition celebration on October 16. The Press Telegram was also a co-sponsor.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

A "Jazz by the Bay" concert, with an estimated attendance of 1,500, was held on September 9 at Queen Mary Events Park.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

Gas Services Bureau completed a total of 2,607 service calls during the week of August 29, 2004 to September 4, 2004. This total included 1,124 Gas and Water Utility Turn On orders, and 611 Turn Off orders. There were 611 Customer Service Orders for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 250 meter maintenance and billing-related orders were completed.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE (continued)

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

Of the total number of service calls received, 877 customer emergency orders were completed during this period.

Public Works, Long Beach Airport

Asphalt repairs on the airline ramp are scheduled for September 8 through September 10. Work will take place between 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. nightly and will require the pads for aircraft parking to be cleared of aircraft and ground service equipment. Phasing is as follows: Wednesday, September 8, Pads 2, 2A and 3 (south side of terminal ramp), Thursday, September 9, Pads 4, 5, and the area by trash compactor (center of terminal ramp), Friday, September 10, Pad 1 (south most end of terminal ramp).

The Airport Terminal elevator will be undergoing major repairs beginning September 9. Project completion date is scheduled for September 30.

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